

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123
December 10, 2016

Meeting held at the Veterans Museum and memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mary Beth Newton, District 1; Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; Ted Kagan, District 2 ; Laurie Martell, District 3; John Weaver, District 4.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Robledo, Chair, District 5(E). Will Rodriguez, Secretary, Member-at-Large (appointment expired-has not reapplied)

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong, County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Officer

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Nancy Owen, Vice Chair

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mary Beth Newton.

3. Introductions/Public Input

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

There was a motion to approve the October minutes. Motion passed.

5. Chairman's Report

Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, reported attending the Miramar National Cemetery Dedication of the Veterans Tribute Tower & Carillon on Veterans Day 2016.

Legislative-no report

One VA

No one was able to attend the November meeting but Nancy will provide minutes to meeting electronically to VAC.

California Veterans Home at Chula Vista (CVVH)

Nancy reported that a new administrator for the home has been appointed by the governor: Thuy Mascorro. She has been employed at the CVVH for the past seven years in executive leadership positions, most recently as the Standards Compliance Coordinator from 2011 until she was appointed as Administrator. Thuy greeted the residents and families at the CVVH at their annual holiday party on December 8, 2016. The VFW Walk that was held in early November provided over \$10,000 to the residents. The Chula Vista Veterans Support Foundation also donate \$35 to each resident as a holiday gift.

CVVH Support Foundation President Dennis Schulz gave remarks at the Holiday Party. In preparing those remarks, he had asked the Administrator for statistics on the population of the home. Nancy shared those statistics with the VAC.

Membership By War Period	Male	Female	Total
World War II	80	17	97
Korean War	69	3	72
Vietnam War	89	4	93
Gulf War	6	1	7
Peacetime	27	3	30
Total Veterans	271	28	299
Non-Veteran Spouses	0	6	6
Total Residents (All)	271	34	305

Includes the one Pearl Harbor survivor at the home.

United Veterans Council (UVC) - no report

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wil Quintong shared that a Veteran Forum was held in Escondido on November 10, 2016 which was very well attended with over 300 participants. A Woman Veterans Forum is being planned for March 2017. More details forthcoming.

Four new Veteran Service Representatives have been hired. OMVA is looking into obtaining a mobile unit to deploy throughout the county.

Wil also reminded the VAC that the OMVA has become a partner in the Department of Defense Vietnam Commemoration recognition program and will be receiving pins and certificates that will be distributed to Vietnam era veterans at various events. Contact OMVA if you know of members of a veteran group who are eligible and would like to receive the pin and certificate.

6. Community Reports

Ted Kagan reported that he attended a veteran's event November 1st in El Cajon. Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Duncan Hunter and Supervisor Diane Jacob attended the event. A Veteran Resource Center was opened at the San Diego Community College.

Mary Beth Newton reported that this was her last meeting with the VAC as her term expires on January 2, 2017 and she is not seeking reappointment due to other work obligations. Mary Beth was thanked for her diligent work on the VAC and for Chairing the VAC during her tenure. A replacement for Mary Beth's position is pending nomination from Supervisor Greg Cox with approval by the Board of Supervisors.

John Weaver discussed a family's concern about a loved one who had passed away at the CVVH and the State trying to recoup money from the estate for "unreimbursed cost of care." This issue had been addressed with CDVA by the former Administrator of the CVVH. Our understanding was that the State was not going to be as aggressive with this issue due to the burden that it inflicts on surviving spouses. VAC would like further clarification.

7. Unfinished Business

Nancy Owen reports that she has received her reappointment letter to the VAC for a term to expire on March 23, 2020. No word on the appointment of Troy Wilson who applied for Member-at-Large position that was held by Terry Jensen and which expired 1/3/2015.

8. New Business

Will Rodriguez's appointment has expired and he has not sought reappointment. That will leave another vacancy on the VAC. He was a Member-at-Large.

9. Closing Remarks

None

10. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Vice Chair: Nancy Owen